REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 11-15 and 17-26 have been amended without the introduction of any new matter. Page 11 of the Specification has also been amended to a correct typographical error without the introduction of any new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10-13, 18 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Robinett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,351,474); and Claims 5, 8, 9, 14-17, 19-22 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. However, these claims have been presently maintained in dependent form because applicants consider the amended pending independent claims patentably distinguishing over the applied art.

Regarding the rejection to Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Claim 4 has been amended in light of the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10-13, 18 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Robinett et al. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of transmitting real time signals as digital data packets over a communications network. The method includes providing first and second time stamps in each packet of a real time signal required to be transmitted. The first time stamp indicates an elapsed time of real time information represented by data carried in the packet and the second time stamp indicates a time at which

assembly of the packet at a source had occurred. The first and second time stamps are derived from a universal time measure available to the source, a destination and routing points in the communications network whereby, in use, timely transfer en route and time-faithful reconstruction of the real time signal at the destination is possible.

Amended independent Claims 6, 11, 17 and 23 include similar features regarding first and second time stamps.

In a non-limiting example, Figures 1-8 illustrate that when a data packet is received by a node, such as a router 200 in a communication system, the router 200 schedules packet departures by calculating a latest departure time for each data packet based on a dispatch time T_{start} 819 (second time stamp) and an interval time ΔT_{ij} 817 (first time stamp) of a previous data packet (see also the specification at page 8, line 19 to page 10, line 10; and page 12, lines 13-27). In this way, each node in a communication system is provided with sufficient information to carry out appropriate scheduling of dispatch of data packets in order to improve the likelihood of time-faithful reconstruction of a real time signal at a destination.

Robinett et al. do not teach or suggest an arrangement for carrying out timely transfer en route and time-faithful reconstruction of a real time signal at a destination using a first time stamp which indicates an elapsed time of real time information represented by data carried in a packet, and a second time stamp which indicates a time at which assembly of the packet at a source has occurred (Abstract; and column 6, line 7-26). Robinett et al. do disclose a method and system for re-multiplexing program bearing data using time stamps which indicate a time at which assembly of a packet at a source has occurred, which corresponds to the second time stamp of the claimed invention. However, Robinett et al. fail to teach or suggest a time stamp which indicates an elapsed time of real time information represented by data carried in the packet, which would correspond to the first time stamp of the claimed invention. Thus, the time stamps, as taught by Robinett et al., cannot be used to

schedule dispatch of data packets to improve the likelihood of timely transfer en route and time-faithful reconstruction of a signal at a destination, because they do not provide sufficient time information. The outstanding Office Action at page 3, lines 4-5 and 16-19 indicates that Robinett et al. disclose a time stamp which indicates the elapsed time of real time information represented by data carried in a packet and which therefore corresponds to the first time stamp of the claimed invention. Applicants note that while Robinett et al. do disclose a second time stamp which indicates a time at which assembly of a packet at a source has occurred, Robinett et al. do not teach or suggest a time stamp which corresponds to the first time stamp of the claimed invention.

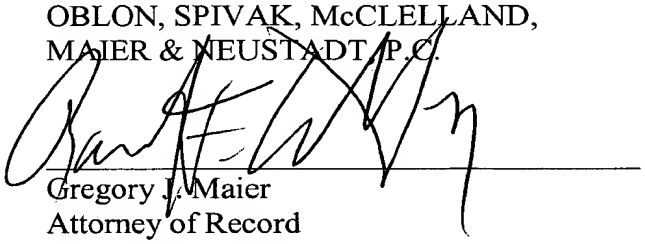
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Additionally, applicants submit that the amendments to Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 11-15 and 17-26 merely correct minor informalities and are not believed to be more narrow to those claims in scope in any aspect.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Raymond F. Cardillo Jr.
Registration No: 40,440

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

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